



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

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MARK HOWARD
CHIEF OF PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

MEMORANDUM

December 16, 2016

TO: School Board Members

FROM: David W. Christiansen, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools

THROUGH: Dr. Robert Avossa, Superintendent

SUBJECT: FY16 FEDERAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

On December 16, 2016, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) released graduation rates for the State of Florida and the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC). The Federal High School Graduation Rate¹ includes standard diplomas but excludes special diplomas and GEDs (General Education Diplomas).²

In FY16, SDPBC outperformed Florida and six other large urban school districts and increased the graduation rate from FY15.

Summary of Results

From FY15 to FY16, the SDPBC

- Increased the overall District graduation rate (includes both District operated³ and charter school students) from 79.4% to 82.3%
- Increased graduation rates for District operated school students (85.3% to 88.3%) and remained similar for charter school students⁴ (40.3% to 39.4%)
- Increased the graduation rate for Black students by 4.6 percentage points (69.1% to 73.7%), for Hispanic students by 3.2% (76.3% to 79.5%), and for White students by 2.2% (88.5% to 90.7%)
- All but two district operated High Schools maintained or improved the Graduation Rate from FY15 to FY16.
- Three district operated High Schools (John I Leonard, Palm Beach Lakes, and Glades Central) showed increases in graduation rate of approximately 10 percentage points.

¹ In FY12, the FDOE accountability system began using the Federal High School Graduation Rate, which is a more rigorous standard than the National Governors Association (NGA) rate used previously.

² Detailed information about the Federal High School Graduation Rate is provided in Appendix A.

³ Includes students who also attended Alternative and DJJ school sites.

⁴ Both District operated school and charter school students are required to meet the Florida Standard Diploma requirements.

From FY12 to FY16, the SDPBC

- Increased the District graduation rate by 5.3 percentage points (from 77.0% to 82.3%), which includes both District operated and charter school student
- Maintained a higher graduation rate than that of Florida for five consecutive years
- Increased the graduation rate for Black students by 8.9%, for Hispanic students by 7.3%, and for White students by 4.1%.
- Fifteen district operated High Schools had graduation rates in excess of 90%, up from 5 in FY12.

Table 1 reports the graduation rates for the past five years (FY12 – FY16) for Florida, the SDPBC, and the other large urban school districts. Tables 2 – 4 show the graduation rates for the past five years (FY12 – FY16) for Black, Hispanic, and White students. Table 5 reports the graduation rates for the past five years (FY12 – FY16) for SDPBC District operated and charter schools. Tables 6, 7 and 8 report graduation rates for District operated high schools, charter high schools, and alternative high schools, respectively, for five years (FY12 – FY16).

If you have questions about graduation rates, please contact Mark Howard, Chief of Performance Accountability, at 434-8850. For information regarding SDPBC initiatives to increase graduation, please contact Dr. David W. Christiansen, at 649-6888, Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools. For questions regarding specific schools, contact the appropriate regional/instructional superintendent.

RMA/DWC/MH/PH/RP/BS:wl

Attachments

c: Academic and Operating Chiefs
Regional/Instructional Superintendents
Academic Directors
Principals

Table 1. FY12-FY16 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and Large Urban Districts*

	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
Florida	74.5%	75.6%	76.1%	77.8%	80.7%
Palm Beach	77.0%	76.3%	77.9%	79.4%	82.3%
Broward	76.4%	75.3%	74.2%	76.6%	78.7%
Dade	76.0%	77.2%	76.6%	78.1%	80.4%
Duval	67.7%	72.1%	74.0%	76.6%	78.8%
Hillsborough	72.6%	74.1%	73.5%	76.0%	79.1%
Orange	73.9%	75.9%	74.6%	77.6%	81.3%
Pinellas	72.0%	71.9%	76.2%	78.3%	80.1%

*Florida school districts exceeding 100,000 students.

Table 2. FY12-FY16 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and SDPBC for Black Students

	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
Florida	63.7%	64.6%	64.7%	67.9%	72.3%
SDPBC	64.8%	63.8%	64.8%	69.1%	73.7%

Table 3. FY12-FY16 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and SDPBC for Hispanic Students

	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
Florida	72.9%	74.9%	75.0%	76.7%	79.5%
SDPBC	72.2%	75.0%	76.7%	76.3%	79.5%

Table 4. FY12-FY16 Federal Graduation Rate for Florida and SDPBC for White Students

	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
Florida	79.4%	80.5%	81.7%	82.7%	85.1%
SDPBC	86.6%	85.5%	87.8%	88.5%	90.7%

Table 5. FY12-FY16 Federal Graduation Rate for SDPBC District Operated and Charter Students

	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
SDPBC District Operated	80.4%	81.6%	84.3%	85.3%	88.3%
SDPBC Charter	45.4%	37.3%	36.0%	40.3%	39.4%

Table 6. FY12-FY16 Federal Graduation Rates for SDPBC District Operated High Schools

Region	School Name	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	Change
	District	77.0%	76.3%	77.9%	79.4%	82.3%	2.9%
C	ALEXANDER W DREYFOOS JR SCHOOL	100.0%	99.4%	99.4%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%
C	FOREST HILL COMMUNITY HIGH SCH	68.6%	79.2%	77.2%	83.0%	87.3%	4.3%
C	INDIAN RIDGE SCHOOL	20.0%	26.7%	20.0%	*	0.0%	NA
C	JOHN I. LEONARD HIGH SCHOOL	72.7%	74.2%	76.6%	78.7%	88.5%	9.8%
C	LAKE WORTH HIGH SCHOOL	70.7%	76.5%	73.3%	78.9%	74.9%	-4.0%
C	PALM BEACH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	91.3%	91.5%	90.4%	91.3%	91.6%	0.3%
C	ROYAL PALM BEACH HIGH SCHOOL	74.9%	76.0%	77.2%	82.8%	88.4%	5.6%
C	WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL	86.2%	82.4%	88.7%	89.0%	91.9%	2.9%
G	GLADES CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL	76.1%	71.1%	70.3%	64.8%	75.1%	10.3%
G	PAHOKEE MIDDLE-SENIOR HIGH	75.0%	74.3%	89.6%	85.5%	82.4%	-3.1%
N	JUPITER HIGH SCHOOL	88.6%	88.5%	90.2%	92.5%	92.6%	0.2%
N	PALM BEACH GARDENS HIGH SCHOOL	77.5%	80.4%	83.0%	81.7%	87.7%	5.9%
N	PALM BEACH LAKES HIGH SCHOOL	64.9%	67.5%	67.7%	72.0%	82.2%	10.2%
N	SEMINOLE RIDGE COMM HIGH SCHOOL	83.7%	82.7%	87.5%	88.1%	92.0%	3.8%
N	SUNCOAST COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL	100.0%	100.0%	99.2%	99.4%	100.0%	0.6%
N	WILLIAM T. DWYER HIGH SCHOOL	84.3%	82.1%	89.2%	90.8%	91.0%	0.2%
S	ATLANTIC HIGH SCHOOL	86.2%	85.7%	90.0%	92.2%	91.7%	-0.6%
S	BOCA RATON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL	89.6%	91.0%	93.9%	91.8%	91.9%	0.1%
S	BOYNTON BEACH COMMUNITY HIGH	74.7%	77.3%	78.3%	80.4%	85.0%	4.6%
S	OLYMPIC HEIGHTS COMMUNITY HIGH	81.5%	86.9%	89.1%	92.8%	94.5%	1.6%
S	PARK VISTA COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL	89.7%	92.2%	89.6%	92.8%	93.9%	1.1%
S	ROYAL PALM SCHOOL	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
S	SANTALUCES COMMUNITY HIGH	77.8%	78.3%	83.2%	84.1%	88.1%	4.0%
S	SPANISH RIVER COMM. HIGH SCHL.	94.5%	90.9%	93.7%	90.4%	93.9%	3.5%
S	VILLAGE ACADEMY ON THE ARTS	86.8%	89.7%	85.7%	94.4%	97.2%	2.8%
S	WEST BOCA RATON HIGH SCHOOL	86.9%	87.7%	86.5%	85.7%	92.3%	6.6%
V	PALM BEACH VIRTUAL FRANCHISE	96.2%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%

* Not Reported by FDOE

Table 7. FY12-FY16 Federal Graduation Rates for SDPBC Charter High Schools

Region	School Name	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	Change
	District	77.0%	76.3%	77.9%	79.4%	82.3%	2.9%
CH	BELIEVERS ACADEMY	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	3.7%	-1.9%
CH	ED VENTURE CHARTER SCHOOL	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
CH	EVERGLADES PREPARATORY ACADEMY	20.0%	34.0%	23.3%	28.3%	25.0%	-3.3%
CH	FLORIDA FUTURES ACADEMY NORTH CAMPUS					4.3%	NA
CH	G-STAR SCHOOL OF THE ARTS	96.1%	93.3%	96.7%	95.9%	98.3%	2.4%
CH	GULFSTREAM L.I.F.E. ACADEMY	*	*	*	*	*	NA
CH	IGENERATION EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY			*		*	NA
CH	IGENERATION EMPOWERMENT ACADEMY RIVIERA		16.7%	9.1%	*	*	NA
CH	INLET GROVE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL	92.1%	86.3%	86.6%	83.6%	92.4%	8.8%
CH	MAVERICKS HIGH SCHOOL AT PALM SPRINGS	10.1%	5.8%	12.0%	13.0%	10.7%	-2.3%
CH	PALM BEACH MARITIME ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL					*	NA
CH	QUANTUM HIGH SCHOOL		5.5%	8.5%	5.7%	10.7%	5.0%
CH	RENAISSANCE LEARNING ACADEMY	*	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
CH	RIVIERA BEACH MARITIME ACADEMY	79.3%	81.6%	90.0%	89.8%	95.6%	5.8%
CH	SEAGULL ACADEMY	*	0.0%	*	*	*	NA
CH	SOUTH TECH ACADEMY	88.0%	89.6%	92.8%	94.8%	95.8%	1.0%
CH	TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE HIGH	3.9%	0.0%	1.9%	5.7%	3.4%	-2.3%
CH	WORTHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL		4.0%	5.1%	3.3%	3.4%	0.1%

* Not Reported by FDOE

Table 8. FY12-2016 Federal Graduation Rates for SDPBC Alternative High Schools

Region	School Name	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	Change
	District	77.0%	76.3%	77.9%	79.4%	82.3%	2.9%
AL	ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM CENTRAL	0.0%	*	*	*	*	NA
AL	ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM NORTH	*	*	0.0%	*	*	NA
AL	CROSSROADS ACADEMY	21.4%	14.5%	18.8%	16.5%	36.8%	20.4%
AL	GOLD COAST COMMUNITY SCHOOL	0.0%	*	*	*	*	NA
AL	HIGHRIDGE FAMILY CENTER		*	*		*	NA
AL	PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS	*	*	*	*	*	NA
AL	PALM BEACH JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY	5.9%	*	*	*	*	NA
AL	PALM BEACH REGIONAL DET.CENTER	0.0%	*	*	*	*	NA
AL	RIVIERA BEACH PREPARATORY & ACHIEVEMENT	13.0%	26.1%	19.4%	22.4%	33.6%	11.3%
AL	SOUTH AREA SECONDARY INTENSIVE TRANSITION	25.0%	10.0%	14.3%	15.0%	*	NA
AL	TURNING POINTS ACADEMY	4.8%	6.7%	0.0%	19.0%	14.3%	-4.8%

* Not Reported by FDOE

Appendix A: Federal Uniform Graduation Rate

Florida's Change to Reporting the Federal Graduation Rate

In October 2008, the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) issued new directives for graduation rates. These new regulations require each state to calculate a four-year adjusted cohort rate, which follows students for four years after entering the ninth-grade for the first time. The USDOE adopted this calculation method in an effort to streamline graduation rate calculations and establish uniform, accurate, and comparable rates across all states.

Starting with FY12, the school grade accountability system for the State of Florida changed from using the National Governors Association (NGA) rate to the Federal Graduation Rate. The Federal rate represents a higher standard than the NGA rate. Differences between the NGA rate and the Federal rate are described below.

		DENOMINATOR (Adjusted Cohort)	
	Cohort Adjustments (Students Removed from the Denominator)	Graduates (On-Time Graduates from the Denominator)	Non-Graduates (All Non-Graduates Remaining in the Denominator)
NGA Rate (Used for school years 2009-10 and 2010-11)	Transfers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Other public high schools (including DJJs) or private high schools- Home-education programs- Adult-education programs*- Deceased students <p>*Adult-Ed GED diploma recipients are also classified as adult-education transfers for the NGA rate and are removed from the cohort.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Standard diploma recipients- Special diploma recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dropouts- Certificate recipients- HS Exit Option GED* diploma recipients- Continuing enrollees who are not on-time graduates <p>* Adult-Ed GED diploma recipients are classified as adult-education transfers and removed from the cohort (they are not non-grads here).</p>
Federal Uniform Rate (Used for school years 2011-12 and beyond)	Transfers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Other public or private high schools (not including DJJs)- Home-education programs- Deceased students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Standard diploma recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dropouts- Certificate recipients- GED diploma recipients- Special diploma recipients- Continuing enrollees who are not on-time graduates,- Transfers to adult education programs or DJJ centers who are not standard diploma recipients